

THE
Expositor of Holiness

VOL. VII.

MAY, 1889.

No. 11.

NOT AS I WILL.

HELEN HUNT JACKSON.

Blindfolded and alone I stand,
With unknown thresholds on each hand ;
The darkness deepens as I grope,
Afraid to fear, afraid to hope ;
Yet this one thing I learn to know
Each day more surely as I go,
That doors are opened, ways are made,
Burdens are lifted or are laid,
By some great law unseen and still,
Unfathomed purpose to fulfil,
"Not as I will."

Blindfolded and alone I wait ;
Loss seems too bitter, gain too late ;
Too heavy burdens in the load,
And too few helpers on the road ;
And joy is weak, and grief is strong,
And years and days so long, so long ;
Yet this one thing I learn to know
Each day more surely as I go,
That I am glad the good and ill
By changeless law are ordered still,
"Not as I will."

"Not as I will!" The sound grows sweet
Each time my lips the words repeat.
"Not as I will!" The darkness feels
More safe than life when this thought steals
Like whispered voice to calm and bless
All unrest and all loneliness.
"Not as I will," because the One
Who loved us first and best has gone
Before us on the road, and still
For us must all His love fulfil—
"Not as we will."

—Sel.

"I SEEMED filled with all the fulness of God. My soul seemed filled with pulses, every one thrilling and throbbing with such waves of love and rapture that I thought I must die from excess of life."—*Dr. M. Levy.*

SO NEAR AND YET SO FAR.

It is very interesting to note the efforts put forth by different writers to approach closely to the subject of the guidance of the Holy Spirit without actually teaching it.

Many treat the subject as if divine guidance were a pit of destruction, and it was a test of their ability to come near the edge of the precipice without falling over into the abyss.

Their clever feats remind one of the ruse which a man adopted to secure a safe coachman for his family. To every applicant he put the question as to how near he could drive to the edge of a precipice without falling over it. Most of the aspirants after the situation offered to drive very close to the edge, thinking thereby to establish their fitness. But the one who proposed to keep as far as possible from all precipices gained the situation.

Now, we should judge that the same common sense should rule here. If absolute commitment to the Holy Ghost as guide into all truth is a pit of destruction, then those writers who keep farthest from it are the most sensible; whilst those who come the nearest to it without accepting it fully, fail, or should fail, to command our admiration.

In our study of various writers on this subject we recently came across the following paragraph, as the summing up of the author's views on this point:—

"Our Heavenly Father communicates His will to us: (1) By the Scriptures; (2) By the Holy Spirit; (3) By His Providence. By carefully interpreting the intimations received through these channels singly, or in connection with